

Today's News - Wednesday, October 29, 2008

- Keegan takes long look at LEED: "the science of sustainable building is still in its infancy...this discipline is our inconvenient truth."
- Starchitects in Kazakhstan creating a "Brasilia in the Steppe": "They're looking at Dubai as their precedent for speed."
- Starchitects take on malls, but can good design make them valid for the 21st century?
- In Israel, historic buildings slated for preservation too often land in hands of developers who either damage or demolish despite the law.
- Bad news for another NYC Modernist icon (but the fat lady hasn't sung - we remain hopeful).
- Better news: things are looking up for two buildings at the Prague zoo by a Czech cubist master.
- HOK's Indianapolis International Airport is "architecturally bold and environmentally ahead of its time" (lots of pix!).
- A Brooklyn brownfield goes green: the buildings "are just guests" within a park.
- Nobel on Brooklyn's IKEA: it "(shockingly) fails to end the world as we know it...in its own way it is a great public space."
- Mays on Superkül's laneway house in Toronto "that's a small masterpiece of urban infill and uplift" (looks pretty cool).
- Have pavilion, can travel (or recycle): Graeme Massie wins Scottish pavilion for 2009 Kolkata book fair (looks cool, too).
- Some British towns look to the stars (or at least hope to) by cutting light pollution (added bonus: a cut in carbon emissions, too).
- Call for entries: 09 Skyscraper Competition.
- A moment of mirth: a spelling error on a sign at Cambridge University, "home to many of Britain's more prestigious brains."

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Promise vs. Performance: A Deeper Shade of Green: ...buildings account for 40 percent of the energy consumed in this country. but LEED buildings—surely they can't be energy hogs? The truth is, the effect of rating systems like LEED on actual performance has not been scientifically determined ... yet. By Edward Keegan- Architect Magazine

Architectural Emblems of Kazakhstan's Energy Wealth: ...moved its capital to Astana...government has spent billions...to make the city into a showpiece — a "Brasilia in the Steppe"...attracting high-profile Western architects...despite the country's reputation for corruption and its poor human rights record. -- Foster + Partners; Massimiliano Fuksas; Behnisch Architekten; Koetter, Kim & Associates [slide show]- Architectural Record

New Malls, Old Ideas: With a handful of new retail projects, several major architects are attempting to bring the much derided mall into the 21st century. But is good design enough? "We've never, ever used the word mall"... -- Daniel Libeskind; Gabellini Sheppard; Massimiliano Fuksas; David Rockwell; Foreign Office Architects (FOA); Tadao Ando; MVRDV; Victor Gruen [images]- Metropolis Magazine

Effacing history: Many real estate developers exploit the lack of law enforcement in Israel to harm historic buildings scheduled for preservation...view the buildings as a hindrance to progress and either demolish the edifices...ignoring planning and building committees, or damage a structure to make it hazardous and force its demolition. - Ha'aretz (Israel)

The Hardest Choice: With heavy heart, Landmarks Preservation Commission votes for Greenwich Village icon's demolition: ...O'Toole Building, which St. Vincent's Hospital hopes to demolish and replace with a new 300-foot-tall hospital...No one was happy making this decision -- Albert C. Ledner (1962) [image]- The Architect's Newspaper

Cubism at the zoo: The zoo has been talking about reassembling and restoring the flood-damaged houses for years now...Things are finally looking up...some doubt as to whether a cubist landmark should stand in a zoo...suggesting the houses would be better appreciated at a more central location. -- Josef Gocár (1920)- Prague Daily Monitor

Ready for Takeoff: Architecturally bold and environmentally ahead of its time, the new \$1.1 billion Indianapolis International Airport promises to elevate both the local economy and our reputation...there is no denying the statement it makes about our city: We have arrived. -- HOK [images]- Indianapolis Monthly

Swale Tale: A Brooklyn brownfield goes green...a pivotal design for a mixed-income, mixed-use housing development on a brownfield site bordering the Gowanus Canal...buildings "are just guests" within the park setting... -- Rogers Marvel; West 8; Starr Whitehouse Landscape Architects [slide show]- Residential Architect

Welcome, Ikea Shoppers! A big-box retailer arrives in hipster Brooklyn and (shockingly) fails to end the world as we know it...who would've thunk it? ...in its own way it is a great public space. By Philip Nobel- Metropolis Magazine

Good living space in tough surroundings: Superkül's Margaret Graham and Andre D'Elia have built a laneway house that's a small masterpiece of urban infill and uplift...shows what happens when sound architectural thinking makes a run into one of the unlikely nooks in the city. By John Bentley Mays [slide show]- Globe and Mail (Canada)

Graeme Massie to design Scottish pavilion for 2009 Kolkata book fair in India: ...will be easy to reassemble elsewhere or recycle afterwards. [images]- BD/Building Design (UK)

The dark truth behind Britain's bright night skies: Where can you go to avoid light pollution...Some developers try to minimise the problem...Essex leads the way in trying to limit light pollution; its county council turns off most of its 120,000 lights from midnight until 5am to cut carbon dioxide and save costs. -- CPRE; Campaign for Dark Skies - Telegraph (UK)

Call for entries: 09 Skyscraper Competition (no restriction on site, height, or shape; designs must be technologically feasible and environmentally responsible); cash prizes; registration deadline: January 12- eVolo Architecture

Cambridge University parking sign has spelling error: ...home to many of Britain's more prestigious brains over the centuries - has prompted mirth over a simple misspelling.- Telegraph (UK)

Rafael Moneo: Prado Museum Extension, Madrid, Spain

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